

WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND

Executive Committee Meeting

March 4, 2008

Members Present: Steve Kitchin, Paul Harden, Paul Ouellette, Pat Talin, Mike Cassidy

Members Absent: Joe Cannon, Ernie Vergano

Staff Present: Dottie Miller, Nick Ucci, Janice Lepizzera

Guest: Mavis McGetrick, Patricia Fox, Johan Uvin

With a quorum present, Chairman Steven Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Due to scheduling, Chairman Kitchin tabled the review of the February 7, 2008 Executive Committee meeting minutes to allow Patricia Fox, a representative of Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, to deliver a presentation on the Board's insurance policy.

Patricia Fox explained the services provided by her company, Starkweather & Shepley, as well as the current liability coverage limits under the Board's existing policy, including the schedule of property coverage, directors and officers liability coverage, and miscellaneous coverage such as employee dishonesty. Chairman Kitchin noted that the schedule of locations address on the policy required change. Chairman Kitchin asked Ms. Fox to work with WPGRI staff to review the policy coverage limits to ensure that they

provide adequate coverage with existing staff and organizational funding levels. The Executive Committee agreed that the current policy levels be renewed by the March 2008 deadline and asked staff to review the policies with legal counsel over the coming year to consider the adjustments to coverage levels and report back to the Committee on its findings at a future date.

Chairman Kitchin asked the Committee to review the minutes of the February 7, 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was entered to approve the February 7, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting minutes

VOTE: Mike Cassidy moved to approve, Pat Talin seconded. All approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kitchin provided a summary of the NAWB Conference held in February 2008 in Washington D.C. He noted that the presentations by Newt Gingrich and Daniel Pink were very good. Chairman Kitchin stated that the breakout sessions he attended at the conference caused him to think about how the Board can begin working on programs targeting older workers. He also stated that he spoke with Douglas Small of the USDOL regarding community-based job training grants. Paul Harden stated that he attended sessions on Industry Partnerships and noted that sustainability of the Industry Partnerships remains an issue nationwide. Paul Harden stated that

the State of Missouri has been using WIA funds for entrepreneurial training and micro-enterprise support. Chairman Kitchin asked the WPGRI staff to explore the potential of a similar effort in Rhode Island. Nick Ucci stated that he was pleased to see that the level of collaboration and cooperation in the state was on par or surpassed that found throughout the country. He also noted that the career pathways videos presented by Pennsylvania were impressive and could serve as a guide for the productions required under the Industry Skill Development Initiative (ISDI). Chairman Kitchin completed his summary of the NAWB Conference by stating that WIA reauthorization was off the table and that the states and LWIBs faced a significant funding rescission.

Chairman Kitchin introduced Johan Uvin, a Board member and representative of the RI Department of Education, to deliver a presentation on proposed regulations for proficiency-based graduation requirements at the state's high schools. Mr. Uvin highlighted several of the proposed regulation and stated that if approved, students would have to demonstrate proficiency to graduate through assessments and student projects. He stated his concerns regarding the absence of strong language ensuring that students with disabilities and other barriers could succeed in the proposed system. He noted that the Board could play a role in helping to strengthen the regulations by supporting testimony in support of alternative pathways for these students. Dottie Miller suggested that Johan Uvin make a similar presentation at the next

Board meeting and that the staff work with the Chairman to draft a letter in support of regulations with additional language directed toward ensuring success for students with disabilities and other barriers.

Director's Report

Dottie Miller stated that work on the Board audits for FY05 and FY06 were continuing and that the staff hoped to have a draft of the report for the April Board meeting. She also stated that no proposals had yet been received in response to the Legal Services RFP. Dottie Miller continued by noting that Maureen Palumbo of the WPGRI staff had been transferred to work on Rapid Response and Youth services for the Department of Labor & Training. She also stated that she had interviews scheduled for an Administrative Assistant position posted under the 501c3 Corporation.

Dottie Miller stated that a draft of the Industry Skill Development Initiative (ISDI) RFP had been reviewed and endorsed by the Strategic Development Committee and that she would be delivering a presentation to the Governor's Workforce Board's Program & Evaluation and Strategic Investments Committees over the next two weeks on year two of the proposal. She indicated that, with the approval of the GWBRI, the RFP would be released in the near future.

Dottie Miller also introduced an updated organization budget through January 2008 for the Committee members to review.

Youth Council Report

In the absence of Chairman Joe Cannon, Nick Ucci delivered the Youth Council report. He called attention to a summary of PY07 and proposed PY08 contracts, noting that, pending Board approval of the negotiated contracts, the WPGRI was in a position to potentially serve an additional 600 youth in PY08, while dropping the cost per youth served from \$1,860 to \$1,499. He then reviewed the proposed contracts and the negotiated funding levels, including proposals for Youth Centers in East Bay and West Bay; WIA programs; JDF-funded Component programs; and JDF-funded Summer Employment opportunities. Nick Ucci stated that the funding levels had been endorsed by the Youth Council at its last meeting and commended WPGRI staff for working diligently to complete negotiations. He stated that these proposed contracts would be presented to the Board at its March 11, 2008 meeting for their approval.

Board Development Committee Report

Chairman Paul Ouellette introduced a letter of resignation from Vina Leite and stated that he would work with the Committee to find a suitable replacement for the Board.

Strategic Development Committee Report

Chairman Paul Harden discussed the draft ISDI RFP that was reviewed at the Committee's February 22, 2008 meeting. He also noted that the Committee received an update on H1B training

activities and that the grant had been extended through the end of the program year. Paul Harden also introduced some LMI materials included in Committee member packets and asked that these, along with a summary of the state's revised employment numbers, be included in the Board meeting packets for March 11, 2008.

Quality Assurance Committee Report

Chairman Mike Cassidy reported that the Committee had met for the first time since April 2007 and that the Committee had a good discussion regarding activities at the One-Stop Centers, as well as the annual awards process. He stated that he would be unable to attend the March 11, 2008 Board meeting and Nick Ucci was asked to deliver the Committee report at that meeting.

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Kitchin asked for a motion to adjourn.

VOTE: Mike Cassidy moved to adjourn, Pat Talin seconded. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nick Ucci